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J. Richard Greenwell

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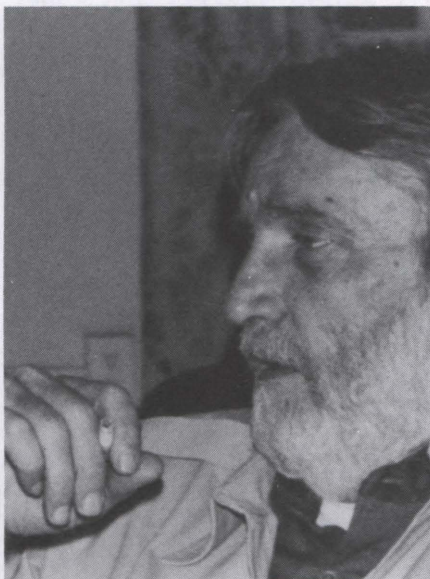
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INTERVIEW

A PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGIST DISCUSSES SASQUATCH, THE EVIDENCE, AND WHAT HE PLANS TO DO ABOUT IT



Grover Krantz.

Grover S. Krantz is a physical anthropologist specializing in human evolution. The author of over 60 technical publications, his research interests have ranged from zooarchaeology and carnivore osteology to brain size in hominid populations, the status of Neanderthal man, and modern human racial groups. He has also had a particular interest in the evolution of human language, and has written extensively on the differentiation of Indo-European languages.

Dr. Krantz obtained an M.S. in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Minnesota (dissertation title no other than *The Origin of Man*). Since 1968, he has been on the faculty of Washington State University, in Pullman, first as an Assistant Professor, and, since 1972, as an Associate Professor.

The so-called "cripple-foot" Sasquatch events of 1969-70 at Bossburg, Washington, are what aroused Dr. Krantz's intense interest in the subject, and his subsequent analysis of the "cripple-foot" tracks indicated to him that a large and bipedal unknown-to-science primate was present in the forests of Northwest America. Over the years, he maintained that the evidence was strong enough to warrant in-depth investigation by anthropology, as Sasquatch, if real, would represent a quantum leap in our knowledge of hominid/hominoid evolution. His position left him relatively isolated in the anthropological community.

In 1982, Dr. Krantz analyzed new Sasquatch track casts obtained by the U.S. Forest Service in the Blue Mountains of southern Washington/northern Oregon. The dermatoglyphic patterns present and the general anatomy of the feet involved has led him to conclude that his earlier position was, in fact, correct, and he laments that most anthropologists do not accept the new evidence. Since that time, he continues to work on new evidence coming every year from the Blue Mountains. More recently, he formally described Sasquatch as the living form of the fossil genus *Gigantopithecus*.

Dr. Krantz was one of the founders of the International Society of Cryptozoology in 1982, and continues to serve on the Board of Directors. However, the opinions he expresses below are his own, and do not reflect any position or policy established by the Society. He was interviewed by Newsletter Editor J. Richard Greenwell.

Greenwell: Let me start by asking you bluntly, do you think that we have an unknown, bipedal primate in North America? In other words, do you think that Sasquatch or Bigfoot exists, and if so, on what do you base your assumption or your hypothesis?

Krantz: To answer your first question, yes. To a modest degree, I am impressed with the number and consistency of eyewitness reports of 8-foot-tall hairy bipeds, the Patterson film, and, with some uncertainty, the so-called Minnesota Iceman. However, more than all of these put together, overwhelmingly it is the footprints that I've been impressed with--the anatomical structure that I deduced back in 1970 from several cases, and more recently, the 1982 Walla Walla tracks showing friction skin or dermal ridges. These, I'm satisfied on several lines of reasoning, could not have been faked.

Greenwell: You mentioned the Iceman in your response. Most authorities, if they accept the Iceman at all, consider it to be a case of a relict Neanderthal type. That's not what the prevailing thought on Sasquatch is. Why did you bring the Iceman into your answer?

Krantz: I've been rather impressed by Bernard Heuvelmans' original analysis of it. Unfortunately, the specimen is not available for study at the present time, so we don't even know for a fact if it is real. Of course, it cannot be considered a type specimen unless it is examined directly, but his analysis was rather good: a rather large and hair-covered biped, which is, of course, not quite human. The question as to whether it's a Neanderthal type is an entirely different matter, and it depends a lot on one's view of human evolution. I'm afraid Bernard and I are in very opposite camps. That is, Neanderthal to me represents late Homo erectus, immediately pre-

ceding H. sapiens, and it evolved directly into modern man. Bernard sees Neanderthal as an evolutionary sideline that coexisted with our ancestors, and might have survived. Neither view can be disproven on present evidence. If I'm right, the Iceman is mostly likely a young Gigantopithecus, if it's anything biological at all.

Greenwell: Well, that brings me to my next question. What do you think the affinities of the North American Sasquatch are? Do you think it's in the ape lineage, or in the human lineage?

Krantz: In my opinion, it's a hominid; that is, it's descended from the earliest human ancestor that became a biped, and it is therefore in the zoological family Hominidae, but that does not make it "human." But it would be our closest living relative.

Greenwell: Sasquatch's relationship to Gigantopithecus has come up a number of times in the past. How do you feel about that as a viable candidate?

Krantz: I think Gigantopithecus is the best, most viable candidate. Also, there is no contradiction here with Sasquatch being a hominid, as I am of the minority school which considers Gigantopithecus to have been a hominid. If I had to put my money on it, I'd say Sasquatch is Gigantopithecus.

Greenwell: Or at least a descendant of Gigantopithecus. Obviously, it may not be exactly the same animal as described from the fossil record.

Krantz: I'll quibble on that one, and say that, unless there's evidence to the contrary, it is, in fact, Gigantopithecus blacki. The reason for this statement is that the natural biological condition of species is to remain unchanged indefinitely, unless outside

forces intervene. So, I would say that, until one demonstrates a difference, the most logical assumption is that Sasquatch is the living form of Gigantopithecus blacki. If we later find that there is a difference, then we could consider giving it separate species or even genus names. As you know, I recently published a paper on this very topic. [See Newsletter, Spring, 1987--Editor.]

Greenwell: Many years ago, you published two scientific papers attempting to demonstrate the biomechanical soundness of the crippled foot tracks found near Bossburg, Washington in 1969-1970. It seems that few physical anthropologists came leaping out of the closet to support you on that analysis. If anything, your Sasquatch activities seem to have had a detrimental effect on your academic career. Why do you think this is?

Krantz: The people who are inclined to accept the reality of Sasquatch believe it with or without my analysis of those tracks. Maybe a few people now lean a little more strongly; maybe they feel their opinion is vindicated by my analysis; but no major attitude change has resulted because of my analysis. People who are quite certain that the animal does not and cannot exist are not in the least bit impressed by it. I might introduce a phrase here I've recently heard: "I'll see it when I believe it." It's a good way of describing most of my colleagues' attitudes--not "I'll believe it when I see it," but the reverse. In other words, they first have to believe the thing is real, then they will "see" the evidence. You can show them all the evidence in the world, but until they believe it, they won't "see" it.

Now, as to a detrimental effect on my career, yes, I've missed promotions and pay raises rather significantly. Had I been eval-

uated only on my work in other areas of anthropology, I would now be far ahead of where I am. The only thing I can attribute this situation to is my Sasquatch research.

Greenwell: You seem to look at it as a legitimate pursuit that you followed as a scientist, and you really don't seem too concerned about the repercussions, at least in the sense that, if they want to behave that way, that's their problem, but you're not going to change your behavior.

Krantz: That's right. I might even be a little more specific. I've been told by a few more cautious colleagues that all I have to do--and I can still do it--is just keep my nose clean, and not do anything unusual for maybe 2 years, and I'd probably be promoted to full professor, after which I could do anything I want. Well, the trouble is I'm doing "anything I want" right now, so, if I go through their recommended procedures, the only thing I would have accomplished, essentially, is 2 years of lost academic freedom. I see no point in that at all.

Greenwell: Now, if you are right about Sasquatch, it would mean, among other things, some restructuring in thinking about human and primate evolution. For example, Sasquatch is reported to be fully bipedal, yet, at the same time, it doesn't exhibit any particularly significant intelligent behaviors--except, maybe, an ability to remain very elusive. Thus, the much-touted hypothesis that bipedalism in early hominids necessarily led to increased intelligence would be completely shattered. What other areas in paleoanthropology and primatology do you think would be affected by the bringing in of a Sasquatch?

Krantz: Well, as to your first point concerning the relationship between bipedalism and

higher human functions, there is nothing about erect bipedalism that necessarily has to do with the human condition. Many dinosaurs were bipeds, so are kangaroos and penguins and chickens, but that doesn't make them human. So bipedalism per se has nothing to do with humanism. Our distinction is more of a mental quality, and the Sasquatch does not share that with us. Most specialists who are well-informed on the subject, and have quite carefully studied the fossil record, are virtually unanimous in stating that bipedalism has no bearing whatsoever on human intelligence. Therefore, in that respect, Sasquatch wouldn't change anything.

Greenwell: But it is a hypothesis that's been bandied around and published and accepted in many quarters.

Krantz: So, it would help get rid of this silly hypothesis. As to other aspects of paleoanthropology, I think the only major one would be having to do with the vocal tract, and it wouldn't necessarily settle the issue. It's often been maintained that bipedalism is what changed the vocal tract from the ape design to the human design. I belong to the school of thought that says no, that that had very little to do with it, the change in the vocal tract having occurred as recently as 40,000 years ago, representing the very last significant step in human evolution. It may be that we could settle that question with the Sasquatch.

Greenwell: It would be nice. Now, on another subject, do you think that perhaps emotions are more aroused--on both sides of the fence--with Sasquatch than with some of our other cryptozoological candidates, and if so, why?

Krantz: Very definitely, yes. Sasquatch is the most emotion-arousing cryptozoological beast simply because it is the closest

thing to a human being, whether in reality or imagination. People find it's much too close to home for comfort. One can believe in something else without too much difficulty, but Sasquatch--that's almost human! Yes, people can get very emotional about it.

Greenwell: What's the situation in China? You have been to China several times in recent years, and you've had discussions with Zhou Guoxing. Do you think the Chinese Wildman is an unknown primate, and what do you think it's relationship to Sasquatch, if any, would be?

Krantz: My stays in China, and the evidence that I have examined, have not really been sufficient for me to provide a good evaluation. Basically, there are two schools of thought in China, at least among scientists. One, which Zhou is a member of, inclines toward the existence of Wildman. The other school is not anti-Wildman, but highly skeptical. And even the skeptics are interested in the topic. It's more a matter of private opinion, not a matter of official policy. My impression of the evidence is that they probably have as much fakery and misidentifications going on as we have; a flying guess might be 50 percent. As to whether the other 50 percent really exists, all I can say is that I've seen some plaster casts of tracks, I've heard a few third- and fourth-hand stories that sound fairly good, and there is a reasonable probability that their animal is real. If it is real, I would hope that it is the same as our Sasquatch, perhaps in a somewhat smaller version. I find it much easier to propose just one unknown species, with two subspecies, than two quite different unrecognized species running around.

Greenwell: You've analyzed the North American Sasquatch footprint casts. How did the Chinese ones look in comparison?

Krantz: None of the Chinese casts are of comparable quality to the topnotch ones here to really get a clear anatomical picture. Some of them are very obvious fakes--they're gigantic versions of monkey feet--while others look disturbingly similar to our Sasquatch tracks. But again, the casts are not of top quality; whether that's from the ground conditions or the casting, I don't know. I couldn't see details in them nearly as much as I can on several of ours over here. They just look reasonably similar.

Greenwell: Let's talk about Walla Walla. You are convinced that these U.S. Forest Service plaster casts of supposed Sasquatch tracks show toeprints and other dermal lines which would be extremely difficult to fake [see Newsletter, Autumn, 1982, and Cryptozoology, Vol. 2, 1983]. Taking all the factors into account, including the actual sighting, what would it actually have taken to hoax the Walla Walla case?

Krantz: Well, the eyewitness sighting aside, a hoax would imply, in the first place, someone exerting 800 pounds or more body weight on a series of footprints 4 and more feet apart. There were some very heavily indented footprints going down a hillside; I cannot imagine any way in which that could be done effectively by man or machine. The hoaxer would also have had to get into an area that's closed to the public, leave no tracks or trail of vehicle or animal transport to get in or out of the area, all of which represents a considerable problem. The design of the foot implies, of course, that the hoaxer would have been well-acquainted with the characteristics of already fairly well-established or most authenticated Sasquatch tracks. The hoaxer would also have had to have gotten into my own mind, and then introduced two characteristics in the tracks that I

have observed previously--characteristics that I have never published, nor written down or told to anybody.

The detailed anatomy of dermal ridges is most incredible. The sheer job of engraving fake feet--and quite a few of them would have to have been made, because they couldn't have all been done with the same one--would have been a task beyond the capacity of a known forger. If anyone could have done that he could counterfeit money better than anybody else in the world, and he is wasting his time messing around with Sasquatch. This is the opinion of some of the police experts who have examined the evidence. The skin exhibits detailed microscopic anatomy absolutely perfectly, so it would have had to have been done by a dermatoglyphics expert, and one of the best in the world, because he also introduced wear patterns for the entire foot surface. They also show a condition known as dysplasia, in which the dermal pattern is inadequately and improperly formed; this rare condition occurs only in certain areas of the foot, and this particular Sasquatch track cast is entirely consistent in this regard. Copying impressions from actual foot skin can be ruled out simply because it would have to have been taken from an actual Sasquatch foot anyway.

So, somebody would have had to have had the physical equipment to handle it, the skill to make the footprints, and the technical knowledge of knowing what to fake. I just rule out the possibility of a hoax entirely.

Greenwell: I've always thought it's rather ironic that the Bossburg cripple foot tracks and the Walla Walla dermatoglyphic tracks are simply dismissed by many anthropologists when, in fact, they show much more detail and provide much more anatomical information than, say, the

Laetolil fossil tracks, which are several million years old and over which little doubt has been expressed.

Krantz: The people who study the Laetolil tracks are already convinced that there was an erect biped, namely Australopithecus, and the finding of its footprints was therefore no surprise at all.

Greenwell: Well, we could say the same thing about Sasquatch. Some people are convinced there's a Sasquatch, so they look for the footprints, and finding them is no surprise at all.

Krantz: Those who believe there is a Sasquatch, when they see the footprints, are quite satisfied that that is proof. The trouble is, the majority of people do not believe that there can be a Sasquatch, particularly those in the academic community; so, when they're shown footprint casts, they naturally assume they're fakes. You have to believe in the animal first--then you believe in the footprints. The footprints in themselves are not going to make people believe in the animal.

Greenwell: I wonder if Piltdown is still having an effect. That became known as one of the most celebrated scientific hoaxes of all time, so well executed for its period that there's still no agreement as to who the perpetrator was. Do you think that many paleoanthropologists might simply be afraid of falling into another Piltdown trap?

Krantz: In a very general sense, yes, I think that there is a fear of another Piltdown. Not entirely that they're afraid of this thing turning out to be a hoax and they're being taken in by it, though. What they're afraid of is the effect on the credibility of physical anthropology, which was so badly damaged by the Piltdown hoax that they're still having diffi-

culty recovering from that, at least some of them are, and they don't want another controversy. The easiest way for them to handle it is to simply deny that the Sasquatch exists, hoping that nobody ever proves it does exist, and then there's no problem. The trouble is, if somebody ever proves that the Sasquatch does exist, then anthropologists are faced with the embarrassing situation of having missed something really big, literally; and if they missed that, then who knows what else they might have missed. That possibility is so frightening to them that, perhaps subconsciously, they just run away from it.

Greenwell: You have worked with a number of dermatoglyphics experts on the Walla Walla casts. Where does the case stand today?

Krantz: As of now, the Walla Walla tracks have been examined by at least 40 fingerprint experts of what you might broadly call the police or criminal investigations persuasion. All of them state that they are very impressive-looking, and that they certainly show what look like dermal ridges. Roughly speaking, the more time they have spent examining the casts the more convinced they have become that they are real.

Several experts who have worked with them the longest just flat out say they are authentic, and that there's no possibility of error. Some others who have looked at them for a few hours, and are of that opinion too, are afraid to be quoted. So, generally speaking, the forensic fingerprint experts are of a single mind, that these dermatoglyphs are authentic--or are so near to authentic that they cannot conceive of any way that they could have been faked.

Greenwell: What about the physical anthropologists whom you have approached or shown the casts to?

Krantz: The physical anthropologists and zoologists generally turn in the other direction. Their opinions range from somewhat favorable--that is, they're very much impressed by the evidence, but by no means convinced--all the way down to the diehard debunkers who have taken brief looks and said they know the tracks were faked because no such animal could possibly exist. There's an interesting situation here. While the physical anthropologists and zoologists would be embarrassed if Sasquatch were proven to exist, in that their disciplines would have missed something that big, the criminologists would be very embarrassed if it were determined that somebody could actually fake dermatoglyphic patterns, which would then raise all sorts of questions concerning the validity of fingerprint identification. So, the latter are naturally more disposed to accept the alternative: that these Sasquatch dermatoglyphics are authentic.

I might add that, since 1982, many more tracks have been found in the same area, some showing ridge patterns. Early this year [1987], I myself saw some of these, in situ, at two locations.

Greenwell: Are you less encouraged after the Walla Walla business about convincing your anthropological colleagues that Sasquatch exists? What do you think it will take to convince them? Only a specimen itself, and nothing less?

Krantz: Many years ago, I came to the conclusion that an actual physical specimen--that is, the bones with or without a Sasquatch wrapped around them--would be the only evidence that they would accept, and that, in fact, is what they said. For a short time recently, I thought that maybe I had found a substitute, and that we would not have to kill one, or somehow locate a

skeleton--

Greenwell: --With the Walla Walla tracks? --

Krantz: --With the Walla Walla tracks. I thought there was a good chance that this evidence would receive general acceptance. I was rather quickly disillusioned, and now realize Sasquatch will not gain general acceptance with any such peripheral evidence, no matter how strong. So, we're back to the drawing board, back to trying to obtain a specimen.

Greenwell: You've gone on record as stating that you would be willing to kill a Sasquatch, and, in fact, you have urged others to kill one, as a necessary step in both proving their existence and studying their anatomy in detail. You have been criticized for this position. Could you elaborate on the reasoning behind it?

Krantz: Well, until we have a specimen, the existence of the species is not established, and its exact zoological nature is not known; and we are just speaking somewhat in the dark as to exactly what we're dealing with. It is also possible that these animals are on the verge of extinction, and we humans, via various activities could cause their extinction without even having accepted them. However, if we could prove they exist, then, as a consequence of that, and not without it, experts could study them, and we could determine, among other things, what conservation measures would be necessary to preserve the species. If we do not do something like that, the species could become extinct, and we'd never even know about it.

Greenwell: What about the possibility of tranquilizing one of them, thus getting the proof without the need to kill one.

Krantz: If tranquilizing

actually worked like we see in television documentaries, yes. But it isn't that simple. In the first place, the chance of a successful encounter is so low that it may well never happen.

Second, to make it work, we would have to kill at least a dozen specimens before the technique were perfected for that particular species--the exact dosage, etc.; by contrast, I propose killing only one specimen. Third, even if we did successfully tranquilize one, how would we get it out of the wilderness? Where would we take it? How would we keep it immobilized? I could go on at length about even more problems here. Suffice it to say that a dead specimen would be preferable, as only one individual would be sacrificed, but this would result in the species being immediately recognized and hopefully protected.

Greenwell: Well, in order to get a specimen, one of two things would have to happen: one would be an accident, such as one being hit by a truck or shot by a hunter, and the other would be by design. Getting a Sasquatch by design would be very difficult, but I know you have several strategies in mind. What are the energy-manpower requirements for such an undertaking?

Krantz: First, I should state that I would far prefer, and it would be quite satisfactory, if we could find the skeleton--or a substantial part of the skeleton--of one that had died a natural death. This would be the most desirable, but it's virtually impossible by normal means because animals that die natural deaths are normally never found, so you can't count on that, and the most diligent searches would probably not unveil one.

But if we were going to go for an actual kill, I have two basic procedures in mind. One of them

I'm using to a limited degree right now. That's simply, whenever the opportunity presents itself, which is only occasionally, to drive on minor roads in the Pacific Northwest at night, usually after midnight, with a large rifle at hand. The idea would be to pick up a Sasquatch in the headlights, which about half of the sighting reports describe, in the hope that I would have enough time to stop the vehicle, load the rifle, and fire it before the animal left the road. This is the needle-in-a-haystack approach. I would like to get more information eventually--as it's gradually accumulating--on the animal's habits, locations, and migration patterns and things like that, so I could up my odds by being at the right place at the right time.

Incidentally, if one has already been shot, I would hope that the person who did so would realize that he has not broken any existing law, he has not killed a human being, and he could gain a certain amount of fame if he were to let us know where the remains might be found. I could also guarantee, if he were to contact me, that he would remain anonymous if that's his choice.

The other approach I have in mind it to hire a few expert hunters who would be highly motivated to go for this, at perhaps \$20,000 a year. I envision about five such people, and it would be done basically on a yearly renewable contract. Each of them would cover an area of their own choice and familiarity, and they would have to be people who have seen Sasquatches, or who have encountered their tracks before, so that they would be highly motivated and really want to succeed. They would all share in the rewards and, of course, whoever gets it would be the most recognized. I think that, within 5 years, one of these men might well bring it in. The price tag on such a project,

whether it succeeds or not, would be about \$500,000.

I should also add, in case someone's wondering, that while the person who would bring it in first would obviously win the prize, there would be no second prize. In fact, I would hope that the killing of an additional animal would be made illegal, and punishable with very heavy penalties.

Greenwell: I understand you are planning a helicopter search with the aid of an infrared imager.

Krantz: Yes, I have one other proposed way of obtaining a dead specimen without having to shoot it. This is to find one that has died of natural causes by locating it from the heat of decomposition. Most deaths probably occur during the winter, the bodies freeze, and decomposition begins in the spring thaw. I sunk \$10,000 into an I-R imager, thinking that the conservationists would be happy to help with helicopter time. That did not materialize, so I've now built my own 'copter from a kit for about \$2,700. I'm just beginning the testing now.

Greenwell: Are you then pinning all your hopes on operating this helicopter for just a few weeks each spring?

Krantz: Not entirely, as it may also serve as a spotting craft to guide more conventional hunting. In addition, the mere existence of this relatively ambitious project might stimulate other hunters to work harder at it, and perhaps succeed.

Greenwell: And most anthropologists, of course, would say, well, we suspected there was something to this all along, but we had to be cautious, and so on?

Krantz: Of course. □

MEMPHRÉ CHRISTENED, GIVEN DUAL CITIZENSHIP

The monster of Lake Memphremagog, in Quebec, Canada, has joined the ranks of the crypto-zoological elite. As a result of recent sightings, and the fact that the 32-mile-long lake juts into northern Vermont, two local residents have founded the International Dracontology Society of Lake Memphremagog, and the first international agreement on a lake monster has been entered into between the cities of Magog in Quebec and Newport in Vermont, thus giving the monster "dual citizenship."

The driving force behind these events has been the combined efforts of Jacques Boisvert, a Magog insurance broker, local historian, and diver, and Barbara Malloy, a Newport housewife. While Mr. Boisvert seems to enjoy his tongue-in-cheek role, Mrs. Malloy, as a witness, takes the matter more seriously.

It was at 5 p.m. on August 12, 1983, that she experienced her sighting. She, her mother-in-law, and two daughters had parked their car on a hill about a mile from the lake. "From out of nowhere, there appeared a brown object or head with a long wake behind it," she later wrote to Boisvert. "It swam in an up-and-down motion with great speed." Boisvert then coined the name "Memphré," after consulting with a Benedictine monk, and officially conferred on Mrs. Malloy the title of "first female dracontologist of North America."

They then jointly formed the Dracontology Society, and convinced the mayors of Magog and Newport to sign the International Agreement, which was announced at a press conference on June 19, 1986, at which 10 Memphré witnesses spoke. In writing to ISC in October, 1986, Mr. Boisvert pointed out that Memphré is "the first aquatic

monster with a francophone name in the Western Hemisphere," and is the first monster to be the subject of an international agreement by two cities in different sovereign nations.

In a press release issued at the October press conference, "dracontology" was defined as "the scientific as well as the mythical study of lake-dwelling creatures such as 'Champ' of Lake Champlain and 'Nessie' of Loch Ness." The release stated that 46 Memphré sightings are on record, involving 97 witnesses, since the year 1816. The agreement between the cities of Magog and Newport states, among other things: "Whereas, due to the international tensions existing in the world today, an agreement such as suggested here, between two cities in neighboring countries, is an example of a long and lasting friendship, The City of Magog and The City of Newport hereby freely and solemnly undertake, by the passing of an unanimous resolution of their respective councils, to protect Memphré." The Agreement also called for scientific research on Memphré, its protection by appropriate Canadian and U.S. agencies, and the reporting of sightings to the Dracontology Society.

But not all local residents are so receptive. "I think I'd have to see it to believe it," said Terri Hood, Secretary of the Newport Chamber of Commerce. Skepticism was also expressed by Vermont fisheries biologist George LaBar, although he admitted that "there's something there...but I can't tell what it is." Even Boisvert himself expresses doubt, but nevertheless relishes the whole affair. A veteran of over 2,000 dives in the lake--without a single Memphré sighting--he smiled at one reporter's question, adding:

"Life is a party--why not enjoy it?"

The publicity generated by the Dracontology Society and the International Agreement has resulted in new sightings being brought to light. Barbara Whitcomb, of Derby, Vermont, was finishing her night shift as a nurse's aide one morning in September, 1980, when, at dawn, she saw a large head on a thick neck. "It was moving on its own," she said. "It made a noise, then it submerged.... I tried to tell people, and they laughed at me...so I just sort of went into the closet."

Viatur and Rita Fortin, also of Derby, reported a more recent sighting. In June, 1986, they were fishing in the evening near one of the lake's 20 islands. Upon hearing a splash, they turned and "saw the creature. It just looked like a serpent," said Mrs. Fortin. It looked more like "a big lizard" to Mr. Fortin, who reported it splashing with what seemed to be its hind legs. He described it as about 24 feet long, with a 3-foot neck showing above the water, and a "big black head." Mrs. Fortin said that "it slowly went underneath."

What these witnesses saw is open to various interpretations. Nearby Lake Champlain--which has a reverse situation in that the lake is mainly in Vermont/New York but juts slightly into southern Quebec--has its own



The official logo of the new International Dracontology Society of Lake Memphremagog.

well-known monster called Champ, descriptions of which, as with Scotland's Nessie, are plesiosaur-like. ISC President Bernard Heuvelmans thinks that giant pinnipeds are responsible for most temperate lake monster sightings. Others, like ISC Vice President Roy Mackal, say that primitive cetaceans known as archaeocetes, such as the zeuglodon, are responsible. Ogoogo, the generic name for the monsters reported in British Columbia's Lake Okanagan, does seem to have the serpentine body type of a zeuglodon (see Newsletter, Spring, 1987).

Whatever the case may be at Lake Memphremagog, Mr. Boisvert and Mrs. Malloy are determined that Memphré receive the recognition they feel it deserves. Their further efforts, assisted by Champ investigator Joseph Zarzynski, resulted in Vermont legislators adopting a joint resolution by the Senate and House of Representatives on March 17, 1987, calling for Memphré's protection, scientific investigation, and citizens' reporting of sightings. The wording of the Joint Resolution was modeled on the Champ resolution already passed by the four

legislative bodies of Vermont and New York (the full text of which appeared in the Summer, 1982, Newsletter).

Not all legislators supported the Joint Resolution, a number of them loudly responding "No!" Representative Frank DaPrato said he was getting tired of lake monster resolutions. "If we keep this up, we'll have monsters in every pond in Vermont," he stated. But Representative William Fyfe said: "Seeing is believing. I think I've seen what Barbara says is Memphré." □

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who contributed a little extra when renewing their memberships for 1987. These donations are very important, as the annual dues have not been increased from \$25, despite rising costs, since the Society was founded in 1982.

The year 1985 was a bad one financially for the Society, but there was a definite improvement in 1986 thanks to the generosity of several Benefactors and several dozen Sustaining Members. And now, 1987 is turning out to be the best year yet, which should result in all our 1987 publications being out by the end of the year.

Substantial contributions have been received from existing and new Benefactors towards the Cryptozoology Operations Foundation Group (COFG), created in 1986 to help the Society financially (see Newsletter, Summer, 1986). In addition, the membership renewal rate has been higher (one reason certainly being the 1986 newsletters coming out more on time), with a total of about 500 renewals and new members by June 30, the earliest in the year that the Society has had that many paid-up members. Many of these renewals also included added donations of \$5

or \$10 (some giving \$50, \$100, or more), making such donors Sustaining Members. By the end of the Society's fiscal year, February 28, there are usually about 700 members, so we are hoping that, with such a good start for 1987, we may climb to 800 members or more. Our 1982 dream of ultimately reaching 1,000 memberships and library subscriptions has, unfortunately, never materialized, but it is still a goal we strive for.

We would also like to inform Sustaining Members that every extra dollar which is donated goes directly to Society operations. Unlike many nonprofit organizations, not one dollar goes towards recruitment drives, mass mailings, or publicity campaigns (the little advertising we have done, mainly in Europe, has been at no cost to the Society). Thus, every member can be proud of the fact that his or her money goes directly toward the Society's normal expenses, not to fund public relations or publicity programs. The Society, we feel, should remain relatively small, but with a solid base of support, rather than expanding into a larger bureaucracy.

J. Richard Greenwell
Editor

"Attention is drawn to the fact that each shift begins with a minimum output and ends with a maximum output. During the first hour of the second shift they produce five-twelfths the number of tractors that are produced during the eighth hour of the first shift and during the first hour of the third shift they produce five-twelfths the number of tractors that are produced during the eighth hour of the second shift while during the first hour of the first shift they produce five-23rds the number of tractors that are produced during the eighth hour of the third shift."

From a 1985 issue of Ekonomika i Organizatsiya Promyshlennogo Proizvodstva, a Russian economics magazine published in Novosibirsk, Siberia

"I know not what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

Sir Isaac Newton
In D. Brewster,
Memoirs of Newton,
1885, Vol. 2, Ch. 27.

THE TABLOIDS THAT TIME FORGOT

American members of the Society will no doubt have noticed the sensational headlines of the weekly tabloid newspapers on sale at the checkout counters of supermarkets, which often display outrageous cryptozoologically oriented claims.

Most of these stories have referred to purported Sasquatch events, such as "Bigfoot Stole My Baby," or "I Lived With Bigfoot," but other kinds of claims have also been published. As a general rule, the Society has ignored these continuing sagas, as their discussion and refutation would absorb too much of the Society's limited resources. Indeed, the subject has come up only once before in the Newsletter (see "Message from the Editor," Newsletter, Winter, 1983). However, as such tabloid claims have grown increasingly bold, and have resulted in several inquiries, the topic will now be addressed again in the Newsletter.

Although difficult--if not impossible--to prove, it can be reasonable assumed that most, if not all, such tabloid articles are complete fabrications, created for the sole purpose of selling more newspapers and increasing revenue at the expense of a gullible segment of the supermarket public. At the same time, it has to be admitted that not all tabloid newspapers are equal in reliability. It may be a surprise for many to learn that the National Inquirer, for example, is known to be particularly careful in its reporting, except perhaps when dealing with famous personalities or the paranormal. However, none of the tabloids can really be considered reliable sources for any cryptozoological information.

The tell-tale signs that such stories are fabrications can be reduced to the following points: 1) although the principals'

Weekly World News, April 21, 1987

Shocked explorers prowling the Amazon jungle discover . . .

Living dinosaurs!

By DOUG GARDNER

Serpents and dinosaurs that roamed the Earth millions of years ago are still living today -- in the darkest reaches of the Amazon jungle!

A scientific expedition that trekked into a region of the Amazon never before seen by man has returned to civilization with films and photographs of the creatures that thrived on Earth 65 million years ago.

The Sun, August 27, 1985

Alive & Kicking

DINOSAUR CAPTURED IN AFRICA

Scientists are stunned by 30-ft monster

AFRICAN SCIENTISTS claim they've recently captured a live dinosaur.

The 30-foot plant-eating reptile has a long neck and tail, and a body the size of a small elephant. The dinosaur's head is shaped like a snake's head.

The team of scientists who found the monster, whose origins on this planet date back some 65 million years, spent three years tracking the creature through the dense, uncharted jungles of the African continent.

Dr. Frederick Manning, one of the explorers, says the dinosaur was captured in the heart of the Congo.

"The monster has been captured," he adds.

To bring the dinosaur back alive, scientists loaded it with a tranquilizer and then placed it in a cage.

The researchers used modern video cameras, sonar devices, and video devices, and used the modern techniques to track the monster.

They believed the creature was a new species.

It was a serpent of enormous size with teeth like rows of swords.

"It was a serpent of enormous size with teeth like rows of swords. It looked much like rows of swords of swords."

They also found dozens of other animals.

"We cannot imagine how incredible these creatures are."

"When our full report is made 20th century."

These samples of the giant reptile have been analyzed by researchers who say the dinosaur is approximately 100 years old.

"It has adapted very well to the actual environment," says Manning.

"It stays away from other animals, and seems to be very intelligent."

"The scientist says he has not yet determined whether the dinosaur is male or female."

"It does not appear to be made of flesh."

"We are not sure."

"Dinosaurs were believed to have been extinct for millions of years, but now we have one in captivity."

It was a serpent of enormous size with teeth like rows of swords.

"It was a serpent of enormous size with teeth like rows of swords. It looked much like rows of swords of swords."

They also found dozens of other animals.

"We cannot imagine how incredible these creatures are."

"When our full report is made 20th century."

Examples of sensational tabloid articles. The "discovery of the century" buried in cardboard boxes?

names are given, including perhaps their home states or countries, no specific city of residence is given--except perhaps a remote city in a far-off land; 2) the titles "Dr." and "Professor" are often used, but the home institutions of the supposed experts being quoted are never given; and 3) final conclusions or follow-ups to the stories, or the ultimate fate of the animals involved, are never given. In short, there is no way in which interested parties can independently verify the claims. The ethics of good journalism--and certainly of science--demand that verification ultimately be forthcoming, so in this sense at least, the tabloid stories have little to do with journalism, with science, or with cryptozoology.

Two sensational tabloid articles merit some space in the Newsletter, if only to serve as

examples for future caution. The August 27, 1985, issue of The Sun carried an inside-page story entitled: "Dinosaur Captured in Africa." Written by Barbara Gilbert, the article stated that "African scientists" had captured a live dinosaur "called Mokele-Mbembe by natives of Zaire." This was the first hint that something wasn't right. The Sun had apparently fallen into the post-colonial trap of believing that "the Congo"--which Mokele-Mbembe is reported to inhabit--corresponds to the more well-known area formerly called the Belgian Congo and now known as Zaire. In fact, it is the old French Congo, officially known today as the People's Republic of the Congo.

The article went on to relate how a team of scientists "spent 3 years tracking the remarkable throwback," and that, "to bring

the dinosaur back alive, scientists disabled it with a tranquilizer gun, then placed it in a cage. It was transported this way out of the depths of the jungle to a special animal preserve. There the dinosaur was freed, but scientists keep it under constant video surveillance." The location of the supposed reserve was not mentioned. A Dr. Frederick Manning, one of the discoverers, was quoted as follows: "This is possibly the most thrilling discovery of the century. Dinosaurs were believed to have been extinct for millions of years, but now we have one in captivity...it has adapted very well to the animal reserve."

It is remarkable that "the most thrilling discovery of the century" was not announced by the government of Zaire, or by the World Wildlife Fund, or by the Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Or even by the International Society of Cryptozoology. None of these organizations seemed to know anything about it. Instead, the dramatic news was revealed through the Florida tabloid The Sun, which somehow seemed to have scooped all of us. We thought perhaps the story was loosely based on the recent Disney-Touchtone motion picture "Baby," about the capture of two Mokele-Mbembes, which was at least presented as a purely fictional account (despite the fact that the film's bearded American professor, a cheat and a murderer, had an uncanny physical resemblance to our own Mokele-Mbembe-hunting Vice President, Roy Mackal!).

Curious as to what The Sun's reaction would be to an inquiry, we called editor Rita Tucker on the telephone. She claimed that the story was absolutely true. However, she was unable to provide any further information at the time because, as it turned out, The Sun's editorial offices were about to move location, and the notes on the article, containing the names and addresses of all the scientists and institutions involved, were temporarily stored with other files in cardboard boxes, and these would not be unpacked for another week. The Editor emphasized to Ms. Tucker the great significance of this find, and Ms. Tucker promised to get back in touch as soon as those pesky cardboard boxes were unpacked. However, no further news was ever received from The Sun or anyone else on this "discovery of the century."

More recently, the Weekly World News of April 21, 1987, carried an article by Doug Gardner entitled "Living Dinosaurs!" This story, again relegated to the inside pages, talked of how a team of scientists exploring the Amazon had encountered and filmed, not a mere dinosaur, but an entire Mesozoic menagerie: "All of the dinosaurs are there in the jungle today--tyrannosaurus, brontosaurus, diplodocus, iguanodon, stegosaur, triceratops," Dr. Fritz Treichler, a Swiss zoologist, was quoted as stating. "The most incredible creatures of the past living and breathing in the 20th century." The 25-man expedition had spent 17 months in South America's Amazon basin, and was

reporting its findings to government officials in the Brazilian city of Manaus--an unusually detailed revelation for a tabloid. This story seems to be loosely based on the famous Victorian novel The Lost World, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Also quoted at length was a Dr. Konrad Gruber--presumably also a Swiss--who stated that the group first found young dinosaurs, and then followed a river for 3 weeks before finding the adults, which were photographed and filmed on land and in the river. One scientist lost three fingers to a small, 2-foot specimen with "razor-sharp teeth." Dr. Gruber was quoted as stating that the dinosaur bones they brought back "are identical in every respect to the fossils we have. And we have the bones of both classes of dinosaurs--the lizard-hipped Saurischia and the bird-hipped Ornithischia." The team also reportedly brought back unfossilized teeth, talons, toenails, skin, and unhatched eggs.

"When our full report is made public," Dr. Gruber concluded, "the scientific world will stand in awe of this fantastic discovery.... The interests of science must be served before anything else. The full story will be made public only at the proper time, not a minute before." We are not sure when "the proper time" will come, but in the meantime, it is comforting to know that, with no further reporting on the subject by the Weekly World News, the interests of science are being served first. □

CRYPTOLETTERS

The Editor welcomes letters from readers on any topic related to cryptozoology, but reserves the right to shorten them or to make slight changes to improve style and clarity, but not meaning.

To the Editor:

I do not agree with Alastair Boyd (CryptoleTERS, Newsletter, Autumn, 1986) that offering a reward for skeletal remains of Mokele-Mbembe would lead to its extinction--except in the general sense that, if the presence of a new and interesting large quadruped in the Likouala were unequivocally established, the demand for specimens living or

dead, if not controlled, could indeed endanger the species. However, this problem is not a cryptozoological responsibility, but an environmental and conservation issue, to be addressed by the appropriate governmental and conservation organizations.

I personally am very concerned that the Likouala region

be preserved. To that end, I have already presented a comprehensive management plan, prepared by the Congolese Ministry of Forests, to the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, D.C. According to the plan, the entire 55,000 square miles of the Likouala region, including its flora and fauna, would become a protected biospheric preserve.

To set the record straight, we did not offer, during our 1980 expedition, any monetary reward for remains of a Mokele-Mbembe. The Pygmies and Bantu peoples with whom we discussed the matter of obtaining concrete evidence of the existence of the Mokele-Mbembe have little appreciation of U.S. dollars, or of monetary currency in general.

We did say that we would be forever grateful to them if, in the unlikely event of finding remains of a Mokele-Mbembe, they would notify Pastor Eugene Thomas at Impfondo, who would then arrange to collect the material. Since the population is so frightened of Mokele-Mbembe, I felt that the possibility of someone actually killing one for our benefit was vanishingly small.

Later, during the second (1981) expedition, we repeated our earlier request. Specifically, I told Emmanuel Moungoumela, a native hunter at the village of Dzeke, that if he should discover remains and succeeded in getting them to us via Pastor Thomas, I would provide him with a .458 Winchester rifle and an ample supply of ammunition--not to kill a Mokele-Mbembe, but to carry on his professional activity of providing food for the population in and around Dzeke.

I should add that we are interested in obtaining a live specimen of this animal, which would be maintained preferably under conditions similar to those in its natural habitat,

either in Brazzaville or elsewhere in the Congo. From a scientific point of view, this is, as far as I am concerned, necessary and appropriate. If these animals have indeed survived since the end of the Cretaceous, the isolation of a single individual from the reproducing group would not result in their extinction.

In the event that the existence of the species were to be established, suitable population studies could be undertaken to establish future protection for the animals.

Roy P. Mackal
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

I wonder how many members have read Dead Men Do Tell Tales by Byron de Prorok, originally published by George G. Harrap & Co. in 1943, and several times since by Panther Books.

As the record of an archaeological expedition to Ethiopia shortly before the Italian invasion, it is one of the most fascinating travel books ever written. However, the part that concerns our Society is the author's visit to Devil's Cave, on a hillside near Lekempti, in the province of Walaga.

The cave was inhabited by a pack of hyenas, and by bats known to the locals as "death birds," which were alleged to feed on human blood. The goat-herds living in the vicinity were living skeletons. One was dying. They showed the author small bite marks on their arms, and the bloodstains on the rags they wore. Strangely enough, there was no mention of the goats or the hyenas being preyed upon in this way.

Being an archaeologist rather than a zoologist, perhaps de Prorok did not realize that

vampire bats are strictly a Neotropical animal.

Unfortunately, considering the present political situation in Ethiopia, it may be some time before any zoologist investigates the mystery.

Malcolm Smith
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Sounds like a case for British explorer Col. John Blashford-Snell--see the review of his book in Vol. 4 of Cryptozoology.--Editor

To the Editor:

Concerning the giant freshwater fish reported in China (Newsletter, Autumn, 1986), such reports evidently go back a long way in Chinese history. Marco Polo (Travels, Penguin Classics, 1982, p. 228), when writing a passage about a river suddenly drying up, continues: "And a fish was found lying high and dry across the river-bed...it was fully 100 paces long.... Its whole body was hairy."

There are many reports of freshwater sturgeon that are longer than the reported giant catfish, though I suppose the catfish may win by weight. Anyhow, at least one "lake monster" out West was a sturgeon, as determined when the lake was drained (Newsletter, Winter, 1985). Sturgeon are, at least, a good rival for "biggest."

Of course, both catfish and sturgeon have protuberances from their faces which may seem "hair-like," although these are not all over the body. In the case reported by Marco Polo, the people who ate part of the "hairy" giant fish died as a result.

Hugh H. Trotti, Jr.
Decatur, Georgia, U.S.A.

For more on giant sturgeon, see Wood's Animal Facts, this issue. --Editor

WOOD'S ANIMAL FACTS

The largest sturgeon in the world is the Russian sturgeon (*Husso husso*) or "beluga." In former times, when it was more abundant, it grew to enormous size, and one female caught at Saratov on the west bank of the Volga in 1869 scaled 2,760 lb. (1,252 kg.). According to Dr. Leo S. Berg (1962), the Russian ichthyologist, the largest beluga on record was a gravid female taken in the estuary of the Volga in 1827 which measured 24 ft. (7.3 m.) in length and weighed 3,249 lb. (1,474 kg.). Another gravid female caught in the Caspian Sea in 1836 scaled 3,218 lb. (1,460 kg.), and a third weighing 3,200 lb. (1,452 kg.) was taken in the Volga in

1813.

The kaluga or Daurian sturgeon (*Husso dauricus*) of the Amur River and adjacent lakes of eastern Siberia is also worthy of mention. The largest specimen listed by Soldatov (1915) measured 13 ft., 8½ in. (4.18 m.), and weighed 1,193 lb. (541 kg.), but Berg (1932) quotes weights of 1,807 lb. (820 kg.) and 2,513 lb. (1,140 kg.) for two others.

A white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*), caught in the Columbia River at Astoria, Oregon, USA, in 1892, and exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago the following year, was stated

to have weighed more than 2,000 lb. (907 kg.), but Gudger (1934) says he was unable to confirm this poundage. There are also two claims for a 1,500 (680 kg.) white sturgeon on record; one taken from the Weiser River, Washington, in 1898...and the other from the Snake River, Oregon, in 1911. [However] the official record is held by a 12-foot, 6-inch (3.81 m.) fish taken in the Columbia River near Vancouver, Washington, in 1912, which weighed 1,285 lb. (583 kg.).

Abstracted from:

The Guinness Book of Animal Facts and Feats, by Gerald L. Wood, Guinness Superlatives, Enfield, U.K. (3rd ed.), 1982.

Honorary Members: Andre Capart (Belgium); Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer (South Africa); Marie-Jeanne Koffman (Soviet Union); Ingo Krumbiegel (Federal German Republic); Theodore Monod (France); John R. Napier (United Kingdom); Sir Peter Scott (United Kingdom).

Benefactors: G. A. Buder, III (United States); Robert C. Dorion (Guatemala); Michael T. Martin (United States); Gale J. Raymond (United States); Kurt Von Nieda (United States); Edward B. Winn (Switzerland); Bette and Joe Wolfskill (United States); Count F. C. Zedlitz (Argentina).

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